



The Midway Town Board of 1960 includes, seated, left to right, Reed Gertsch, Earl Kohler, president, Grace W. Sonderegger, secretary. Back row, Fay Van Wagoner, Eugene Probst and Leo Luke.

not established until 1893, and prior to that time, letters and news came through any available means from Provo and later Park City.

The early residents of Midway kept alive their family ties, and kept up to date on current news through the occasional riders that brought saddle bags of mail up from Provo. Descendants of some of the early Midway people have recounted tales of the anxious hours of waiting for the man on horseback to carry the mail up the rough trail through Provo Canyon, and of the great thrill of receiving mail.

Sidney H. Epperson, the presiding elder, once had a large crowd gather at his home as they waited for a newspaper to arrive reporting the outcome of the Sullivan-Kilrain championship boxing match that had been fought a month earlier on the Mississippi.

Many waited for news of events of the great Civil War, and tremblingly opened letters that told of their loved ones who were engaged in the conflict.

The mail that came by horseback through Provo Canyon usually had been carried across the continent by wagons following trails that began where rail lines ended. The co-op store operated by Bishop David Van Wagonen was a central meeting spot in the community, and soon became the location where people waited for the mails. So, when the post office was officially established in 1893 the Van Wagonen store was the logical post office and the proprietor the choice for postmaster.

Bishop Van Wagonen served as postmaster until 1897 when Mary



The old Midway Post Office from 1897 to 1917. It was operated by William and Mary Watkins.

E. Watkins was appointed postmistress. Her office was located in a small frame store building operated by her husband, William Watkins. They continued their store and post office until 1918 when poor health and failing eyesight forced them to retire.

Because Midway was only a fourth class post office, wages were paid only on a percentage of cancelled stamps, and the pay was small, usually averaging \$32 to \$37 a month, with a little more at Christmas time.

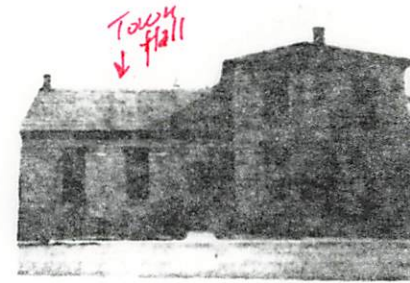
Kohler Appliances

POST OFFICE

The first post office was located between Main Street and First North on Center Street. It was operated by William Watkins, who was blind in one eye and had one hand missing. The mail was carried by horse and buggy over one route including Midway, Charleston, and Heber & another route included Daniels, Center Creek, and Lake Creek.

This was also the location of one of the few telephones in town for many years. Important messages were taken and relayed to the towns people. Children were also able to buy candy here in the post office.

The current Post Office is part of the town hall on Main Street.



Old Midway Post Office



The Immigrant House

IMMIGRANT HOUSE

Many of the new comers to Midway arrived with no job prospects and no place to stay. To help them out in this trying situation, Bishop John Watkins (of the "ginger-bread house" on Main Street), had this small home built for people to stay in until more permanent housing arrangements could be made. The home was later used for the elderly who needed some place to stay. This building is located behind the Coleman Store.

Naomi lived upstairs
Post Rock + Stucco
swiss
cutok Hill



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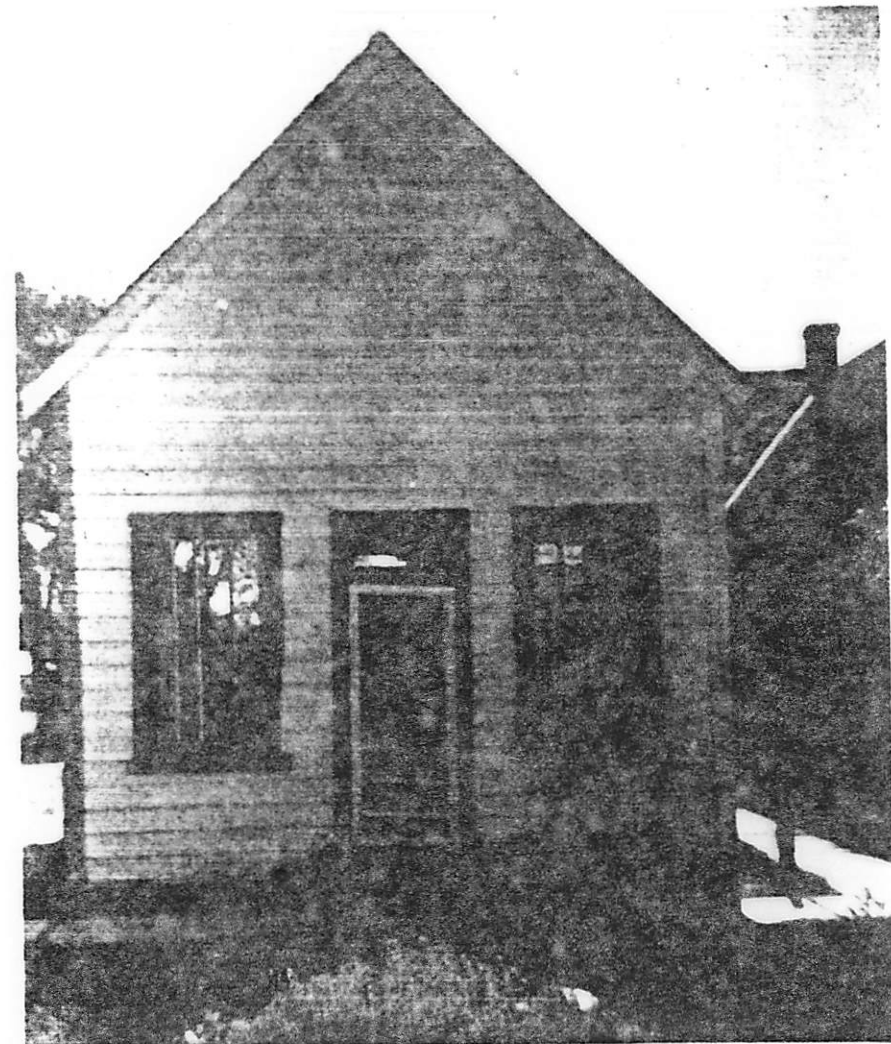
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W BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

WILLIAM AND MARY BUSBY WATKINS

William Watkins, son of John Watkins and Harriet Steele Watkins, was born December 25, 1868 at Midway. Married Mary Elizabeth Busby, August 1894 in Midway. Died November 6, 1937, at Midway.

Mary Elizabeth Busby Watkins, died July 8, 1939, at Midway.

They had two children who died at birth.

Mr. and Mrs. Watkins kept the Midway Post Office for many years. They also had a little novelty store and stored and sold ice. Operated the public telephone office in Midway.

Mrs. Watkins was an excellent housekeeper. They had a beautiful yard and flowers.

Mrs. Watkins was known throughout the valley for her magnificent hair. It hung below her waist. She knew how to dress and arrange it beautifully.

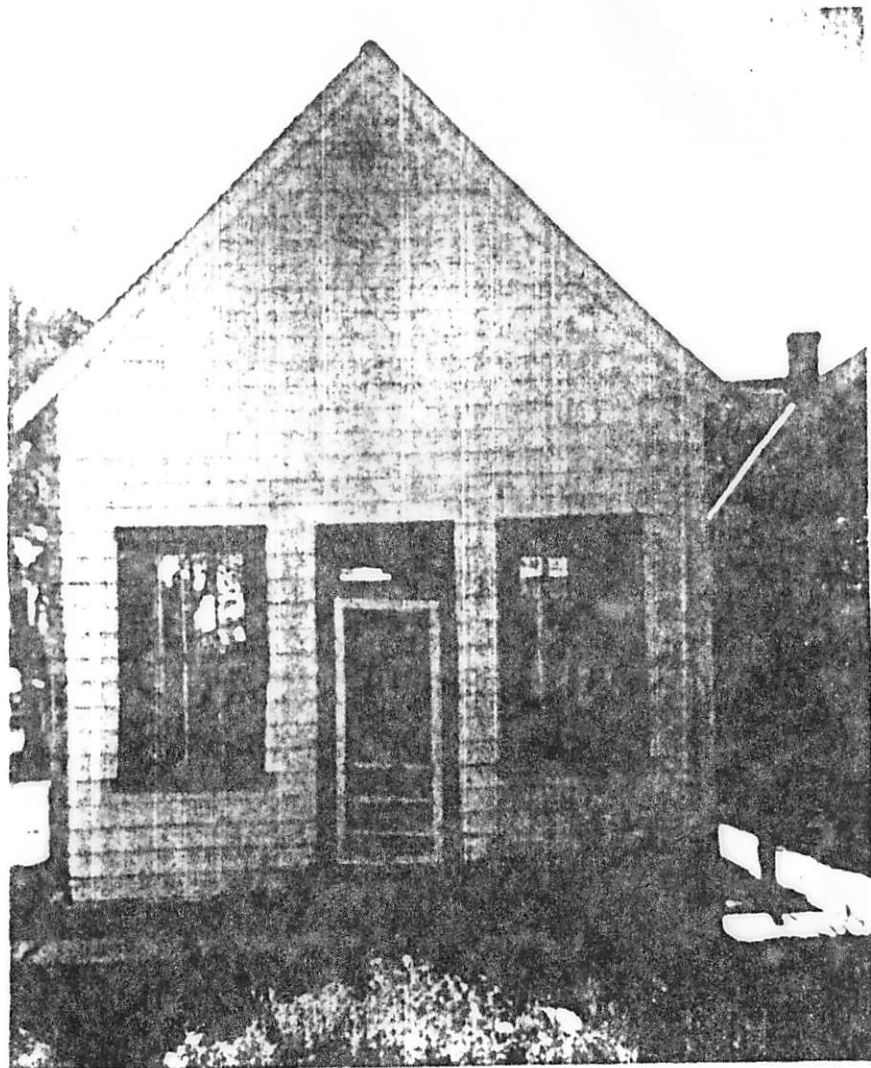
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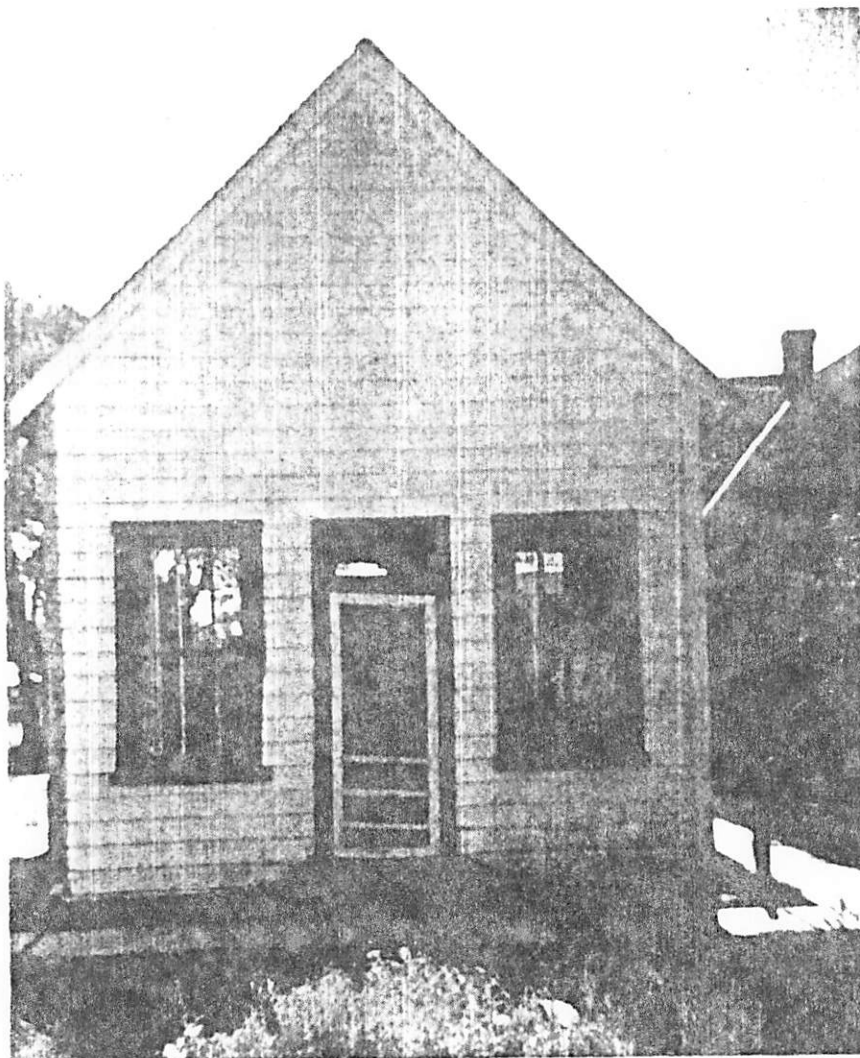
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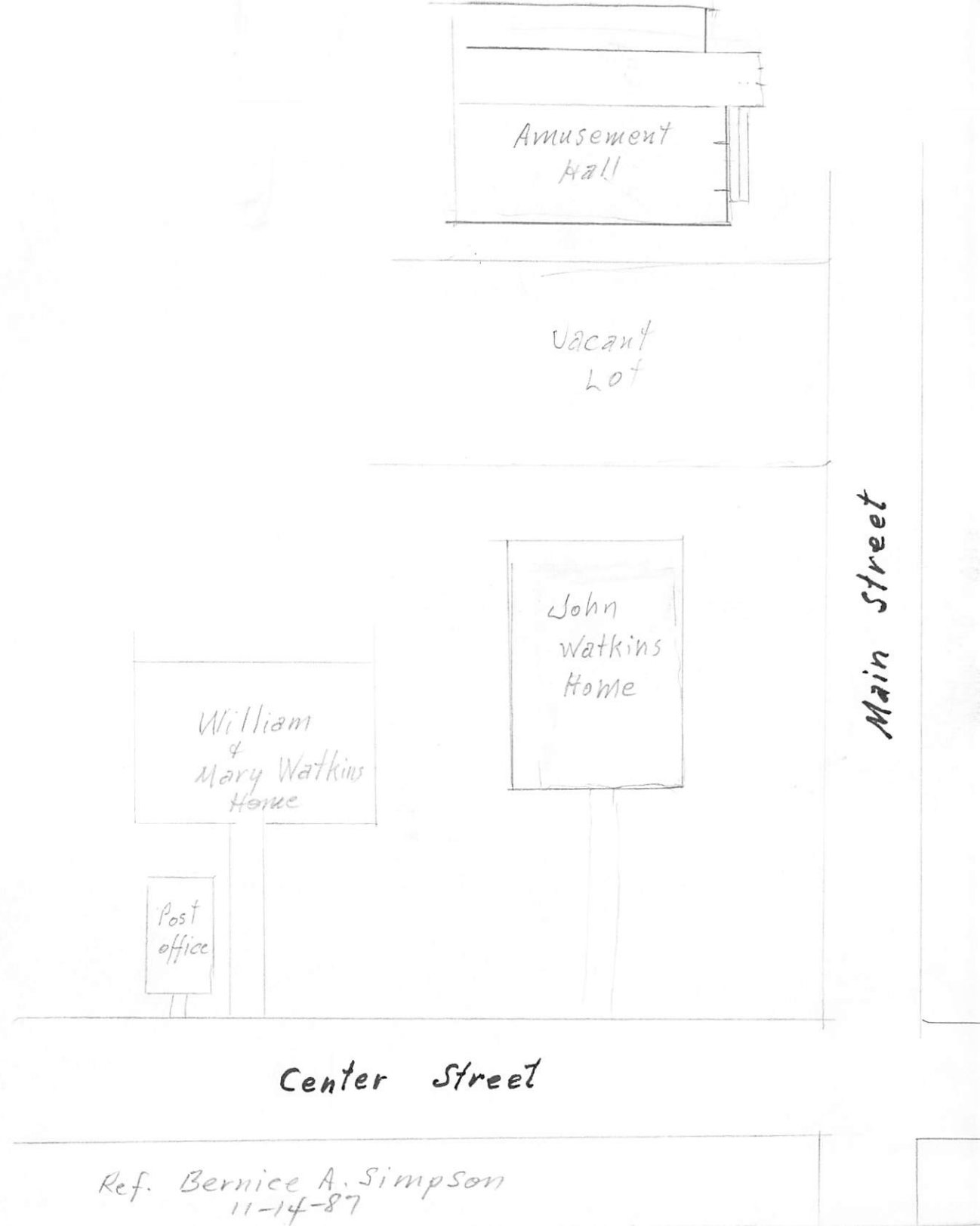
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Ref. Bernice A. Simpson
11-14-87

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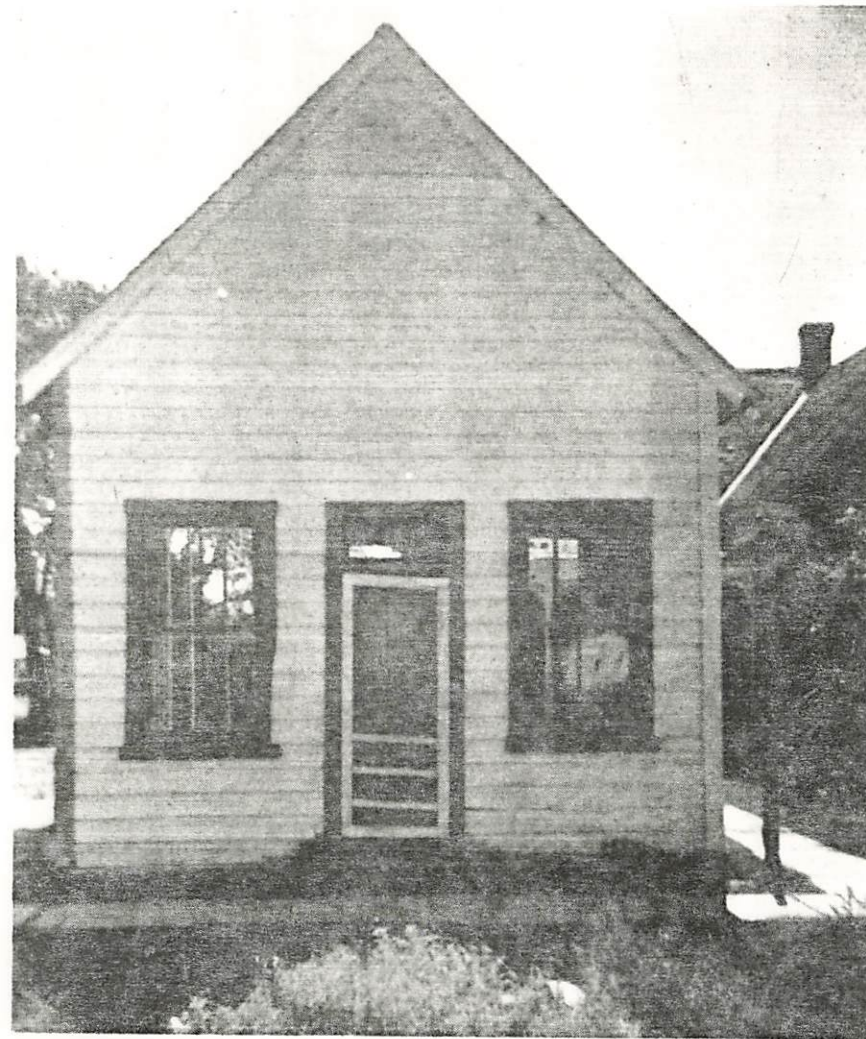
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William Watkins

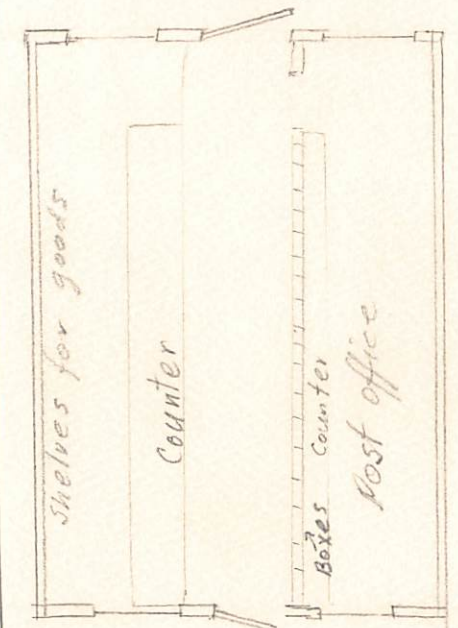
Mary Elizabeth Busby Watkins



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Pictures of William & Mary Watkins and info. about interior of store - from Lorna Van Wagener (Burton) 11-5-84.

Store & Post Office of William & Mary Watkins



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